

Hawaii MARINE

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June 18, 2004

'On the road again'



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

More than 80 Marines from Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, departed Monday for Exercise Golden Eagle on the northeastern coast of Australia. During the six-week exercise, these Marines will complete joint training on live-fire ranges, which includes squad and platoon attacks alongside the Royal Australian Army. Kilo Co., 3/3 is set to return at the end of July.

Seal aided here

National Oceanic and
Atmosphere Administration
Press Release

A team of veterinarians performed surgery Wednesday morning on a Hawaiian monk seal at the former Naval Ocean Systems Command facility here to remove a large fishing hook from the animal's esophagus.

The 20-year-old adult male seal, weighing approximately 500 pounds, was captured June 11 near Waimea, Kauai, after eluding marine mammal experts for a week. He was first observed on June 4 with fishing line trailing from his mouth. Satellite technology was used to find and track the seal after that sighting, as he is one of several monk seals that had been tagged for endangered species research. When the seal was captured, about 15 feet of fishing line and a leader were

See SEAL, A-4

Drigot named award finalist

2nd District, State of Hawaii
Press Release

HONOLULU, Hawaii — Congressman Ed Case (Hawaii, 2nd District) announced last week that a Kailua resident who works as a senior natural resources management specialist at Marine Corps Base Hawaii is a finalist for a prestigious national award honoring the nation's top public servants.



DRIGOT

"I am extremely proud to announce that Dr. Diane Drigot is a finalist for the 2004 Service to America Medals," said Case. "For many years, many of us throughout the community have come to know Dr. Drigot as an innovative and tireless steward of Hawaii's natural resources, particularly at Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

"Over 20 years, more than 50,000 Marines and thousands of Hawaii school children have gained a better understanding of their environment by working with and learning from Drigot. She has an incredible record of accomplishments in a job that requires her to ensure the

See DRIGOT, A-5

Chaplain leaves behind rich legacy

Sailor launched 'cooperative ministry,' gives his last mass here, Sunday

Cpl. Monroe F. Seigle
Combat Correspondent

When Navy Chaplain (Capt.) Joseph Estabrook, the command chaplain aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, joined the Navy on June 28, 1977, his intentions were to only serve three years. He never imagined his adventures in the U.S. Navy would one day enable him to live on the side of a volcano in the beautiful country of Italy or host ecumenical services at the edges of beaches lapping sparkling blue waters onto Hawaiian shores.



ESTABROOK

Living in Italy is only one of the interesting stories Estabrook is glad to share with any Sailor or Marine. In his office, memorabilia from many places around the world and several ships adorn the

walls and delight the eyes. They bespeak mere chapters about Estabrook's travels and his lifelong aim, to ensure the well being of the service members under his charge.

A graduate from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif., he served as the first Family Life director of the Albany Diocese and initiated many new programs in support of marriage and family life before reporting for active duty after his commissioning in July 1977 to Newport, R.I., for training.

With a warm smile across his face, Estabrook recalled, "Before the Archbishop called me and asked me to consider serving a few years in the Navy as a chaplain, I did not know anything about the Navy, except they worked with Sailors and Marines on boats. I didn't even know what the uniform looked like until I was actually wearing one for the first time!"

Estabrook wears his Navy uniforms and Marine Corps camouflage with pride. They have allowed him to enrich

the lives of service members and their families all about the world.

In official capacities at MCB Hawaii alone, he has served as the pastor to the Roman Catholic community, and provided mass, sacraments, pastoral counseling, retreats, family picnics and a dynamic youth program.

During his tenure, he doubled attendance at weekend Catholic mass from an average of 250 parishioners to more than 500 military personnel, family members and retirees.

Through his efforts, he drafted the "Cooperative Ministry" base order that founded the concept of team ministry between the 18 chaplains and religious program specialists assigned to the many different commands here.

These are only a few of the contributions Estabrook leaves to MCB Hawaii.

Estabrook retired from active duty yesterday. He will conduct his last mass here Sunday.

See ESTABROOK, A-4

K-Bay's own nominated for federal honors

Lance Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

WAIKIKI, Hawaii — More than 2,000 service members and federal employees attended the 48th Annual Excellence in Federal Government Awards Luncheon here at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, June 8. Nearly 40 of them were Marine Corps Base Hawaii employees and military members who were along to support others nominated and honored as outstanding federal government employees by the Federal Executive Board.

Nine categories of awards honor federal employees each year. Out of 118 candidates from the island of Oahu, three nominees in three different categories were selected from Kaneohe Bay.

Representing the "Federal Employee of the Year: Professional, Administrative and Technical" category was nominee Edmund M. Urabe of the Facilities Department at K-Bay. Marine Corps Air Facility submitted the other two employee nominees: Gary M. Chun in the category of "Federal Employee of the Year: Trades and Crafts" and Lance Cpl. Bernabe Hernandez in the category of "Exceptional Community Service."

"It was an honor to be nominated; it came as a total surprise," said Hernandez, who regularly volunteers his time in churches and schools around Oahu as well as on base. "I was very happy to attend the event; it was amazing."

A Hickam Air Force Base honor guard

began the event with the presentation of "colors," followed by the Kunia Joint Service Choir's melodic version of the "National Anthem." Judging by the applause and standing ovation, a crowd favorite was Ed "Chevy" Corey's rendition of "I'm Proud to be an American," originally sung by Lee Greenwood. Corey performed in sign language, and his rendition was followed by a presentation depicting scenes throughout Hawaii.

Afterwards, awards were presented, and each nominee received a certificate. Top awardees received engraved, wooden plaques that listed their name, place of employment and award information. Additionally, each plaque was decorated with a golden Federal Executive Board seal.

MCBH News Briefs

Commissary to Close on Monday & Tuesday

The Kaneohe Bay Commissary will get a layout facelift this Monday and Tuesday. Store shelves and vendor spaces will be rearranged and reallocated to provide patrons and vendors a more efficient and effective shopping experience. The Commissary will reopen on Wednesday at normal hours.

Kaneohe DMV Closes Until Fall

The Kaneohe Police Station and the Kaneohe Substation Driver’s License Branch will be closed, beginning Monday for repairs, and neither is scheduled to reopen until September.

Drivers who need to take road tests may make appointments through facilities at City Square on Dillingham Blvd., Pearl City, Kapolei, Wahiawa or Waianae.

Drivers needing to renew their licenses may do so at the Satellite City Hall facilities in Kaneohe (at Windward Mall) or in Kailua (at 1090 Keolu Dr.). Additional Driver’s License Branch information is available at www.co.honolulu.hi.us/csd/vehicle/dllocations.htm.

New Law Takes Aim at Speeders

“Governor Linda Lingle signed into law June 4 a bill aimed at deterring racing on Hawaii’s roadways,” said the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*. Under the law (Act 105), it continued, “drivers speeding at 90 mph or more could have their licenses revoked for up to five years.” Also, the law increased fines to upwards of \$500 “for drivers whose car alarms repeatedly and falsely sound” for longer than five minutes.

Two States Extend Voter Deadlines

If you are a South Carolina resident and would like to vote in the state’s U.S. Senate Republican seat election being held Tuesday, see your voting assistance officer, immediately. Also, the state of Alabama extended the absentee voting deadline for voters registered in the primary election of Tuscaloosa County. Officials must receive absentee ballots for the county’s primary election no later than Monday.

For more voting details, contact Capt. Habba at 257-9710.

Hawaii MARINE

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IN THE CG’S MAILBOX



BRIG. GEN.
MCABEE

Sir,

My wife and I have lived at 2135 Bancroft Dr. (across from North Beach) since April 2001. Since that time, the parking and general security situation in the area has steadily decreased to the point where we often cannot park in front of our quarters, due to both military and civilian beach-goers and surfers.

We were in contact with the base's Provost Marshals Office and Base Inspector's Office early last year (attached is an e-mail attesting to this contact), but nothing has yet been done, in spite of assurances from the base inspector that either additional signs or painting of curbs would be done.

On Sunday, Feb. 22, my wife and I left to run errands around 10:30 a.m. and returned around 1 p.m. When we returned there were no parking spaces in front of our quarters, so we yet again called PMO, who informed us that the base regulations governing parking at North Beach were being revised, allowing anyone to park anywhere.

When we informed them that the signs prohibiting beach parking across the street were still in place, he dispatched a squad car to verify that fact, and then ticket the offenders.

Although PMO immediately responded in this case, often they are busy with other matters and cannot do so, leaving the residents to their own devices for parking.

Parking is only one of the issues in this area. Trash is constantly blowing around our yard, which is obviously policed up by residents as it is noticed. No one in our home smokes; yet I constantly pick up cigarette butts. We don't surf either, but I find myself picking up surfboard wax wrappers, plus drink cups, candy wrappers, etc.

Another issue involves the loud music on the weekends around day-break. Many people play their stereos at a level where it causes our windows to shake and vibrate, often at 7 a.m. or earlier. I believe the base order states that stereos should not be able to be heard more than 50 feet from the vehicle, but this order is obviously being ignored.

The above points have made me and my wife question our choice to live on base. But now, we feel that the current situation will be exacerbated by the newspaper article we read in the paper a week or two ago, where Senior Chief Petty Officer Zimmerman recommended that residents not be allowed to take dogs to North Beach.

We do own a dog and take her to the beach many times per week, mainly because it's convenient, but she is always supervised and not allowed to damage the beach in any

way.

There are many other dog owners who do the same, both residents of the immediate area and those who bring their dogs from other locations. It concerns us that someone who doesn't live in the area made such a recommendation, and we hope that the base staff doesn't consider it without first talking to the residents in the area.

Closing the beach to dogs while also easing the North Beach parking and usage guidelines (also suggested by the senior chief and base) will almost assuredly make the situation worse.

Initially thinking this could be handled at the residents' level, most residents that I know in my area of base housing take the time to explain the regulations to those who choose to ignore them. But now it's past the point where we can handle it, and I also believe it isn't something we should be required to do in the first place.

A survey was conducted by the base inspector's office a year or so ago, and no one that I'm aware of has ever heard or read the findings, not even those who participated in the survey.

While we enjoy living aboard base, this situation has deteriorated to the point where I often second-guess our decision to accept base housing, which we thought was a more secure environment than living ashore.

I am writing in the hope that my viewpoint will be considered on this important security and welfare issue for the residents of this housing area. Thank you.

Semper Fidelis,
Chief Warrant Officer 4 John L. Oberhauser
3d Marines NBC Officer



Dear Chief Warrant Officer 4 Oberhauser,

The commanding general asked me to respond to your Feb. 24 e-mail because your concern falls within my area of responsibilities. He appreciates that you took the time to participate in the CG Mail program.

Your comments about additional sign placement, resident parking stalls and general security for residents living at the entrance to North Beach are appreciated.

North Beach is the largest and most heavily used beach aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii; surfers, swimmers, and fisherman use this beach frequently at the same time. And as you are perhaps well aware, the winter months bring about better surf conditions and beach usage is increased as a result.

Comment submitted by Chief Warrant Officer 4 John L. Oberhauser:

“Many people play their stereos at a level where it causes our windows to shake and vibrate, often at 7 a.m.”

We have worked hard to strike a healthy balance between protecting base residents' privacy and allowing our military personnel to use our beautiful beaches to the maximum extent possible.

Authorized patrons for North Beach are all members of the U. S. Armed Forces (whether active duty, retired, reserve or National Guard), their families and properly sponsored guests.

There are 22 total parking spots for beach patrons. We have implemented various parking plans over the years in attempts to accommodate both residents and the numerous beach patrons.

In response to your CG Mail, we recently posted additional "No Parking Except Residents/Guests of the Housing Area" on your street. The CG also approved the following actions for North Beach because he views the safety of residents living in proximity of North Beach as his overriding concern:

1) Base housing residents living in proximity to the North Beach access point will be given vehicle window placards to help the Provost Marshals Office identify residents and authorized guests.

2) PMO will step up enforcement efforts in the North Beach area through increased patrolling, citing, towing and booting vehicles that are illegally parked, as well as citing discourteous and ill-mannered patrons as appropriate.

3) The base working party will police the beach access area on a daily basis.

4) Personnel accepting housing in the future, near the North Beach access point, will be required to sign an acknowledgement statement from base housing (similar to that used for those living near the golf course) that they will be living in a high traffic/parking area due to beach patrons and are willing to accept these small inconveniences that accompany living in a prime beachfront location.

5) Current residents in close proximity to the North Beach access point will be given the option to move into different quarters when it becomes available, if they are unhappy with the traffic and parking in their area.

We believe these additional measures will help resolve the parking concerns and other issues that you mentioned.

Thank you for participating in the CG Mail program. Working together to improve the base will help to make MCB Hawaii a better place to live, work and raise our families.

Sincerely,
Lt. Col. Loren D. Barney
Base Inspector
Marine Corps Base Hawaii

(Editor's Note: Letters of any length may be trimmed and edited in the interest of good taste and brevity.)

The commanding general invites input from

the base community via C.G. Mail on the following topics: What are we doing that we shouldn't be doing? What are we not doing that we should be doing? What are we doing that we

should be doing better?

Responses should include a recommendation that will help solve the problem and must include your name and return address.

HMH-362 holds post and relief ceremony

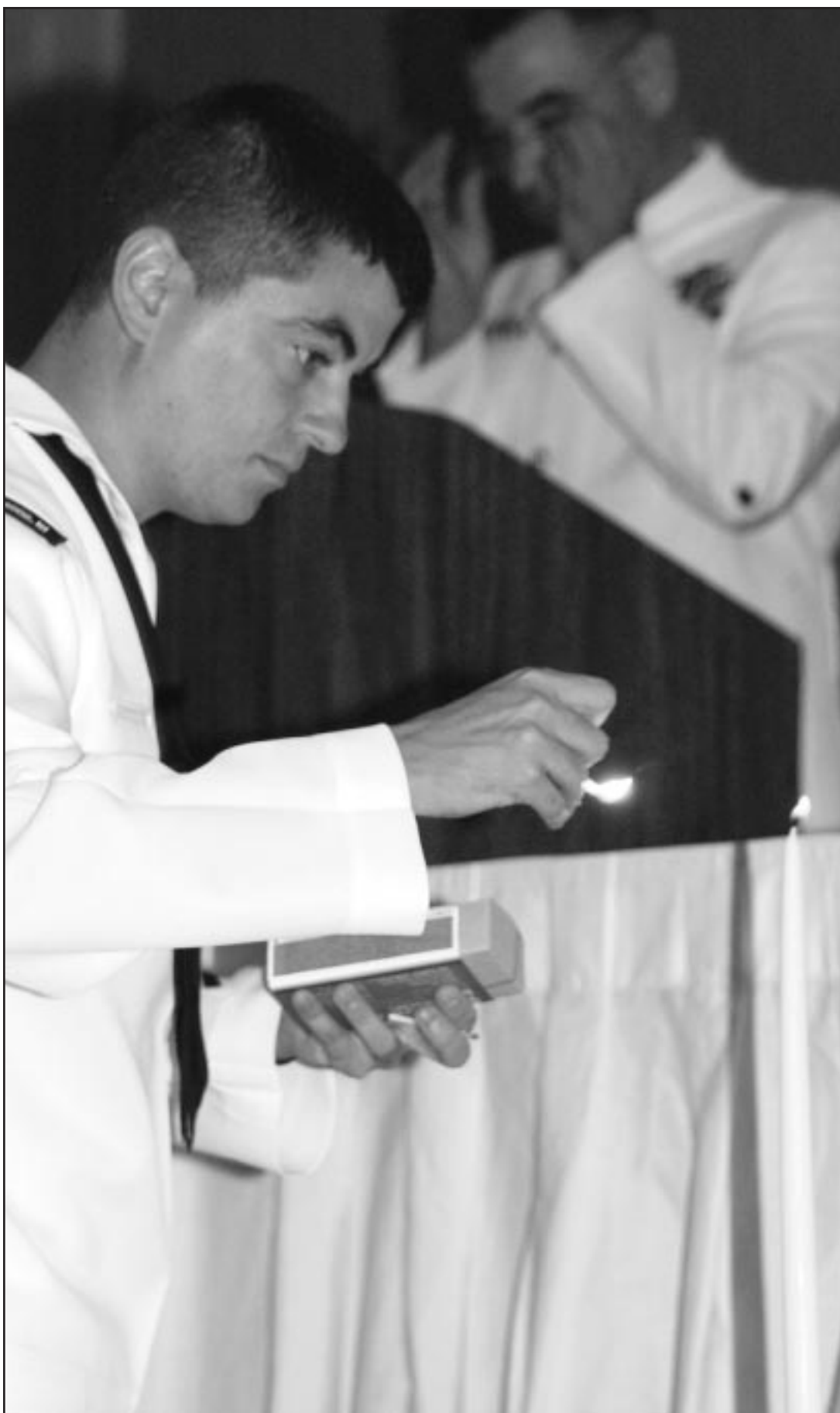
Sgt. Maj. Walter L. Howell was posted at Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362 and Sgt. Maj. Richard W. Dorsey said farewell at a post and relief ceremony Monday. Howell formerly served as the sergeant major of Marine Helicopter Training Squadron 301 here. Dorsey moves on for duty as the sergeant major of Marine Aviation Training Support Group 53, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Wash.



DORSEY



HOWELL



Petty Officer 2nd Class Dominick Spatola lighted a candle to remember hospital corpsmen that had fallen in combat zones.



Together, Marines and Sailors presented the colors at the 106th Annual Hospital Corpsman Ball, signifying the close relationship between Marines and hospital corpsmen.

Corpsman Ball

Marines help corpsmen celebrate 106 years

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Combat Correspondent

WAIKIKI, Hawaii — Hospital corpsmen from all around Oahu celebrated the birthday of their corps at the Hyatt Regency here, Saturday during the 106th Annual Hospital Corpsman Ball.

Honored as the guest speaker during the ceremony, Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson, commander of Marine Forces Pacific, spoke to the audience about the relationship between Marines and corpsmen of the past and present. As well, he told of a hospital corpsman who recently gave the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq, while attempting to save the life of a Marine.

After speaking, Gregson re-enlisted Petty Officer 1st Class Shirley Hovlid in front of the well-dressed audience and joined in the traditions of the cake cutting ceremony, passing a piece of cake from the oldest Sailor present to the youngest. The custom symbolizes the passing of naval traditions from one generation to the next.

A color guard of Marines and Sailors marched on and retired the colors, and

a candle was lit at a lonely table to honor corpsmen lost in the line of duty.

"The whole ceremony went over very well," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Tavis N. Jones, hospital corpsman with Headquarters Company, 3rd Marine Regiment. "Lieutenant General Gregson's heartfelt speech really hit home with everything that is going on in Iraq. I really thought that everyone present could really relate.

"The moment of silence for a recently fallen corpsman really put things into perspective," Jones added.

After the ceremony, Sailors, Marines and guests said they enjoyed the splendid meal provided by the Hyatt Regency. Then a Marine DJ inspired guests to get out of their seats and "cut a rug" on the dance floor.

"Being a corpsman, you are sort of a jack of all trades, as you are not working on a ship all of the time, and you are not working with Marines all of the time," Jones explained. "We sort of meet in the middle somewhere, and the camaraderie between us was, and always has been, outstanding," he said. "The esprit de corps between the green and blue sides was fantastic."



Left — Petty Officer 1st Class Shirley Hovlid took her oath of re-enlistment from Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson at the Hospital Corpsman Ball, Saturday.

Right — Lt. Gen. Wallace C. Gregson, commander of Marine Forces Pacific, cut the birthday cake, which is traditionally passed from the oldest Sailor present to the youngest.



Word on the Street

What is the most adventurous thing you have ever done?



"I just got back from Disneyland with my wife and kids. We spent eight days ... there. Now that's adventurous."

Gunnery Sgt. Thomas Clark

Engineer commodity representative, CSSG-3



"Surviving is an adventure in itself."

Cpl. Danno
Mascot
MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay



"Getting OC sprayed."

Lance Cpl. Cesar Olleres
Artillery mechanic,
Bravo Battery, 1/12



"When I was very young, joining the service. When I was growing up, Mexican girls didn't leave home unless they were married."

Maria E. Fullenwider
DANTES test examiner



"I used to work in a mine field."

Gunnery Sgt. David Clarke
Inspector,
Environmental Compliance and Protection Department

VP-47 duels it out in the Middle East

Capt. Joseph Silvio
Aide de Camp

Upon returning from deployment in support of the global war on terrorism, 11 members of Combat Air Crew 2 reminisced about their duties during the previous six months. Several dozen missions later, each knows his or her responsibilities, inside and out.

Typically, the crew billeted in barracks rooms, bachelor officer quarters and, for some, in apartments. Often, they were roused at 3:30 a.m. to the sounds of irritating alarms. Sleep soon became ever allusive the night before any mission into hostile territory.

The early morning wake-ups quickly became routine for these forward-deployed members of Patrol Squadron 47. Most days, they not only awakened in the wee morning hours, but also mustered at 4:15 a.m., received a series of mission and tactical briefings (plus a quick breakfast) between 4:30 and 5:30 a.m., and headed to board aircraft by 6, for a 9 a.m. take off.

The P-3 Orion crew readily performed specific tasks with seasoned efficiency to get their planes off on time. The crew discovered this was a byproduct of working together for so long, interacting like a family does, usually with ease and sometimes disagreeably, as family dynamics go.

Navy Lt. Rob Loeb, the aircraft commander, was responsible for mission success and crew safety. Loeb said he immediately realized the great responsibility he carried upon his shoulders.

“In what other community in the military would you have the opportunity to be responsible for and lead such a great crew?” Loeb asked.

Chief Petty Officer James Toczczic, an airframe maintenance technician chief, echoed the skipper’s sentiments. Toczczic said the CAC-2 crew and recent missions were the best opportunities he’s had yet, both to make a difference and contribute to squadron success.

When on typical CAC missions in a combat environment, pilots man the controls, while aviation warfare specialists like Petty Officers 2nd Class Dustin Jones and Scott Rhoads operate the aircraft’s powerful camera and focus the camera upon the target deck — the fixed points on a map that make up a particular mission.

Learning the art of directing the P-3’s powerful camera, however, is challenging, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Carmelo Garcia, another aviation warfare specialist. Additional duties require Garcia to also regularly monitor starboard and port aft windows in search of potential surface-to-air threats.

See **VP-47**, A-5

SEAL, From A-1

removed from the animal before the U.S. Coast Guard airlifted him to Oahu.

Mammal experts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and several other agencies monitored the seal over the weekend at NOAA’s Kewalo Research facility in Honolulu. Tuesday morning, the seal was transported here for exploratory surgery. A veterinarian seal specialist, Dr. Martin Haulena, was called in from the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, Calif., to assist on-island, monk seal veterinarian Dr. Robert C. Braun in a medical procedure to remove the hook.

Braun reported Tuesday that the hook was located “down in and near the stomach, but we were not able to remove it from the mouth.” He operated to extract the hook by going through the seal’s abdominal wall into the stomach in a 5½-hour surgery Wednesday.

Braun described the fishhook as being about the size of the “c” formed by his own extended thumb and forefinger. Its location inside the seal’s body, he explained, was determined during Tuesday’s procedure using an endoscope (a probe-like tool with a video camera attached), inserted through the sedated seal’s mouth and manipulated through a length of 1-inch plastic pipe along the fishing line still attached to the hook.

The veterinary team is

guardedly optimistic about the seal’s full recovery, given its advanced age and the damage done by the hook while it was entering and lodged in the seal’s body. The seal will remain here until well enough to be moved to another facility or released back into the wild.

Currently, officials are still looking for another hooked monk seal last seen at Poipu, Kauai, several days ago. Call the NOAA Fisheries’ toll-free, 24-hour emergency hotline at 1-888-256-9840, if you observe stranded marine mammals.

“For those who may interact with seals while fishing, we ask that they cut the line as short as is possible and call the hotline right away. Early reporting enables a quick medical response and may save the animal from serious injury and death,” said Margaret Akamine, NOAA Fisheries program analyst.



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey P. Middleton

This 500-pound Hawaiian monk seal was airlifted to Oahu after a fishing line was seen trailing from his mouth.

ESTABROOK, From A-1

“I only came in [the Navy] to do three years, but every station became more interesting than the last and

gave me chances to help more and more people,” Estabrook explained. “The next thing I knew ... I had twelve years in, and I figured I should go ahead and

make it a career. “I have had some wonderful experiences, and I have enjoyed going out to sea and working with ... Marines and Sailors.”

VP-47, From A-4

The flight engineer ensures all environmental, navigational and propulsion systems supporting the P-3 Orion in flight remain operational.

“I never would have imagined that I would be doing something so important,” said Petty Officer

3rd Class Lori Roback, the flight engineer.

Rounding out any mission, the flight technician, Seaman Philip Sendek, an avionics electronic technician, maintains and initializes all the aircraft’s flight systems. Additionally, the flight tech oversees the wide variety of ordnance that a P-3 carries.

With more than 40 successful missions behind them while deployed to the Middle East, CAC-2 returned to Hawaii, in the first week of June. They returned with the knowledge that each had successfully and effectively executed his or her task and significantly contributed to the global war on terrorism.

The commanding general of Marine Corps Base Hawaii extends a “BRAVO ZULU” to the other members of Combat Air Crew 2: Navy Lt. Doug Leavengood, tactical coordinator officer; Navy Lt. Mike Byers, the navigator and communications officer; Lt. j.g. Cameron Crooker, the P-2 or second pilot; and Lt. j.g. Gabriel Blanton, the P-3 or third pilot, and to all the officers, men and women of VP-47 for the wonderful support they are providing to United States Marines in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Capt. Joseph Silvio

Brig. Gen. Jerry C. McAbee (bottom center), commanding general of MCB Hawaii, poses with members of Combat Air Crew 2 after returning from a nine-hour intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission over Iraq.

DRIGOT, From A-1

Corps’ activities comply with environmental protection laws,” Case explained.

Citing an example of Drigot’s work, Case said Drigot’s accomplishments have helped to increase the population of the endangered Hawaiian Stilt living in wetlands within the base confines. He said 10 percent of the state’s stilt population lives at the Nuupia Ponds Wildlife Management Area.

Drigot devised a program that combined a Marine training exercise and a program to control the excessive growth of pickleweed that was threatening the wetland habitat of the stilt within the Marine base. Now, Marines maneuver 26-ton amphibious assault vehicles to stamp down the pickleweed. Their actions improved the nesting of the stilts and increased the birds’ count from 60 to 160 over 20 years.

“Dr. Drigot has also led a successful 20-year effort to remove 25 acres of invasive mangrove, including those on the Marine base, resulting in the improved health

of the local ecosystem and opening up previously inaccessible areas for public environmental education and military training exercises,” Case said. “Dr. Drigot is an environmentalist who has changed the environment in Hawaii, and military environmental protection practices across the country.”

The eight awardees of the Service to America Medals will be honored at a dinner and awards ceremony at Union Station in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 28. Selected by judges representing government, business, labor, education, and nonprofit organizations, each awardee will receive a monetary award (\$3,000 to \$10,000).

The Service to America Medals were created in 2002 by the Partnership for Public Service, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization committed to recruiting and retaining excellence in the federal civil service and Atlantic Media Company (publisher of “The Atlantic Monthly,” “National Journal,” and “Government Executive” magazines).